

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY AF/S-RJDOLS:BK

APPROVED BY AF-JJBLAKE

AF/S-WPO'NEILL (DRAFT)

L/AF-BKHUFFMAN (DRAFT)

AF/PPS-NRAWLS (DRAFT)

USIA/IAA-FWHENHAGEN (DRAFT)

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R 041918Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068077

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: SAUNDERS INCIDENTS

REFERENCE: PRETORIA 1205

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS COMPLETELY THAT EFFORTS CONCERNING TREATMENT OF AMCITS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD GOALS SET OUT IN PARA 1, REFTEL.

2. CONCERNING OPTIONS PRESENTED IN PARA. 11, REFTEL, DEPARTMENT PREFERS WRITTEN RESPONSE ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF DFA NOTE AND LIMITED TO STATING OUR HOPE THAT WITHOUT DELAY SAG WILL TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO PREVENT SIMILAR REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS. (EMBASSY SHOULD NOT RPT NOT PROPOSE CONSULTATIONS). IN INTEREST OF PROMOTING BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS BY ELIMINATING FRICTION CAUSED BY RACIAL INCIDENTS, EMBASSY SHOULD URGE DFA TO ASSURE THAT STEPS WHICH SAG IS CONSIDERING RESULT IN SITUATION WHERE RACIALLY NON-DISCRIMINATORY

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TREATMENT IS ACCORDED TO OFFICIAL USG VISITORS AND A CLEAR

AND READILY AVAILABLE PROCEDURE FOR EXEMPTION FROM DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION IS ESTABLISHED FOR NON-OFFICIAL US VISITORS. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT THAT THIS IS A POTENTIALLY GROWING PROBLEM (SA OFFICIAL STATISTICS SHOW MORE THAN 400 "NON-WHITE" US VISITORS TO SA IN 1973) AND THAT INCIDENTS ARE INCREASINGLY LIKELY TO OCCUR RESULTING IN INDIGNITIES TO AMERICAN VISITORS AS WELL AS EMBARRASSMENT TO SAG AND UNNECESSARY IRRITATION IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. AS IS EVIDENT, PARA. 1 ABOVE IS VARIATION OF OPTION IN PARA. 11A OF REFTEL. AMONG REASONS FOR CHOOSING WRITTEN RESPONSE IS DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING FORMAL RECORD OF EXCHANGE OVER SAUNDERS INCIDENTS AND BELIEF THAT WRITTEN EXPOSITION OF OUR POSITION WOULD HELP KEEP SA BUREAUCRACY IN GEAR ON THIS QUESTION. SINCE SAG OBVIOUSLY CANNOT COMPLETELY FULFILL OUR DESIRES WE WISH TO AVOID SHARING ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR FASHIONING SOLUTION WHICH WILL INEVITABLY BE INADEQUATE.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD ASK THAT WE BE KEPT INFORMED ON THIS MATTER. DEPARTMENT DESIRES THAT EMBASSY IN DUE COURSE FOLLOW UP WITH DFA AND REPORT RESULTS. RUSH

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